What's New in the Mineral World?

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The Tucson Show has been over for more than a month now, and my report on it for the print magazine is written (you will see it in the May-June 2026 issue). Now it is time once more to check out some dealers' offerings on the Internet. When I write online "what's new" reports around this time of the year I try not to anticipate information that will shortly appear in the print report, and this time I've mostly followed that informal rule; in fact, it has been fairly easy to do so since, rather to my surprise, not many of the show's best new items have as yet found their ways onto the websites. Below I will show some interesting one-of-a-kinders from "special" selections on view online, including pieces to represent entire collections which dealers have recently added to their stocks.

Oh yes, and the weather report: following our rainy Southwestern winter, the desert wildflowers around here are indeed going *wild*, painting what is usually desolate brownness in merry-looking, tourist-attracting bright colors—Happy Spring!

On the Web

The very busy website of *Dan Weinrich Minerals Inc.* (weinrichmineralsinc.com) is now offering specimens from two former collections, a "recent" American one (Harris Precht's) and an "old" European one (Otto Grussen's), both with numerous tempting one-of-a-kinders. Since the specimens from these collections are scattered at large through Dan's pages, and since he posts new updates about twice a week, tracking down individual goodies from these two collections might necessitate a lot of scrolling through the "back" pages; however, Dan's website conveniently has an "Advanced Search" function; click on that, then scroll down to the "Ex" window where you can select a particular collection from the drop-down menu.

The late Harris Precht (1937-2025) was a lifelong Midwesterner, contractor, forester, farmer and part-time mineral dealer who (according to Chris Stefan's "Collector Profile" in the May-June 2022 issue and his obituary for Harris in the September-October 2025 issue of the *Mineralogical Record*) "…built one of the better collections of contemporary Midwestern minerals of his generation." The Precht specimens from Midwestern localities which are now on Dan's website include not only such excellent fluorites, calcites, celestines, etc. as we would expect, but also some lesser-known things like this loose, sharp, 4.5-cm brown crystal of **fluorapatite** from the Pea Ridge mine, Washington County, Missouri, where a magmatic iron ore deposit was worked between 1964 and 2005. This unusual-looking fluorapatite crystal, which knowing Midwesterners would be apt to recognize as a "Pea Ridge," costs $450 from Dan.

Fluorapatite, 4.5 cm, from the Pea Ridge mine, Washington County, Missouri. Ex Harris Precht; Weinrich Minerals Inc. specimen and photo.

Another Precht specimen which must be called a Midwestern specialty is this **native sulfur** from the Stoneco Maumee quarry in Maumee, Lucas County, Ohio—not to be confused with the Stoneco Maybee quarry in Monroe County, Michigan, which also produced sulfur crystals (see Chris Stefano and William Barr's article on Maybee in the May-June 2021 issue). Stoneco Maumee is a quarry in Silurian dolomite which is now being exploited for building stone but is not well known for yielding fine mineral specimens. The 8-cm, well formed, vividly yellow sulfur from Maumee is priced at $500.

Sulfur, 8 cm, from the Stoneco Maumee quarry, Maumee, Lucas County, Ohio. Ex Harris Precht; Weinrich Minerals Inc. specimen and photo.

Much better known—in fact, having nearly reached "ikonic" status among Midwestern collectors since the first examples emerged in the mid-1960s—are the orange-yellow to richly orange, translucent to gemmy **calcite** crystals of the Irving Materials quarry in Anderson, Madison County, Indiana (see Chris Stefano's article on this locality in the March-April 2022 issue). Many of these beautiful crystals exhibit a style of contact twinning which has earned them the informal name "Pendleton twins," and indeed this specimen once owned by Harris Precht is a "Pendleton," as seen by the twinning plane down its center and by the shallow re-entrant angle on top. Dan's price for this splendid thumbnail-size calcite crystal is $1250.

Calcite, 2.7 cm, from the Irving Materials quarry, Anderson, Madison County, Indiana. Ex Harris Precht; Weinrich Minerals Inc. specimen and photo.

The *other* former collection which Dan Weinrich has acquired was that of German industrialist Otto Grusen (1863-1929), who, Dan informs me, collected minerals from the late 19th century into the early 20th century, most actively between 1905 and 1912. The collection lost some things during World War II, and the original catalog could not be located, but the 900 or so specimens which remained in January of this year were purchased by Dan. For each specimen there is much information about Grusen's sources and on the prices he paid long ago, recorded in scribbles on old brown labels mounted on rectangular wooden backings—these artifacts being, in Dan's opinion, "collector's items in themselves" for mineral-collecting historians.

Three fine, old-time specimens now on offer from Dan and arrayed below here will convey the "feel" of these Grusen selections. The 8.5-cm **epidote** from the classic locality of Knappenwand, Untersulzbachtal, Salzburg, Austria is a gleaming example of "herringbone" epidote of the Alpine type, priced at $5,000.

Epidote, 8.5 cm, from Knappenwand, Untersulzbachtal, Salzburg, Austria. Ex Otto Grusen; Weinrich Minerals Inc. specimen and photo.

Next comes a comely **cerussite** on matrix from the old lead mine at Stříbro (German name: Mies), near Plzeň, Bohemia, now in the Czech Republic. The last mining at Stříbro ceased in the 1970s, the locality meanwhile having become one of Europe's best for cerussite and galena; this specimen costs $2500 from Dan.

Cerussite, 6 cm, from Stříbro (Mies), Bohemia, Czech Republic. Ex Otto Grusen; Weinrich Minerals Inc. specimen and photo.

But Grusen also appreciated American classics: see the spectacular cabinet-size **phlogopite** from the Franklin mine, Franklin, New Jersey, which was acquired (the Grusen label tells us) from Colorado mineral dealer Lazard Cahn (1865-1940) and for which Dan now asks $1500.

Phlogopite, 11.5 cm, from the Franklin mine, Franklin, Sussex County, New Jersey. Ex Otto Grusen; Weinrich Minerals Inc. specimen and photo.

You will read in my print report on the 2026 Tucson Show (upcoming in May-June 2026) of the fabulous new specimens of **mimetite** from the Yanga Koubenza open-pit mine, M'fouati District, Bouenza, Republic of Congo, which the collecting team of Tomasz Praszkier's *Spirifer Minerals* (spiriferminerals.com) have recovered lately from a small "mimetite bonanza zone" in that mine, and which had an exciting market debut at Tucson this year. If you would like some foretastes of that world-class mimetite you can consult the Spirifer website, which also provides a well-illustrated account of the collecting expedition; meanwhile, here are some *other* Yanga Koubenza specimens to be admired on the website:

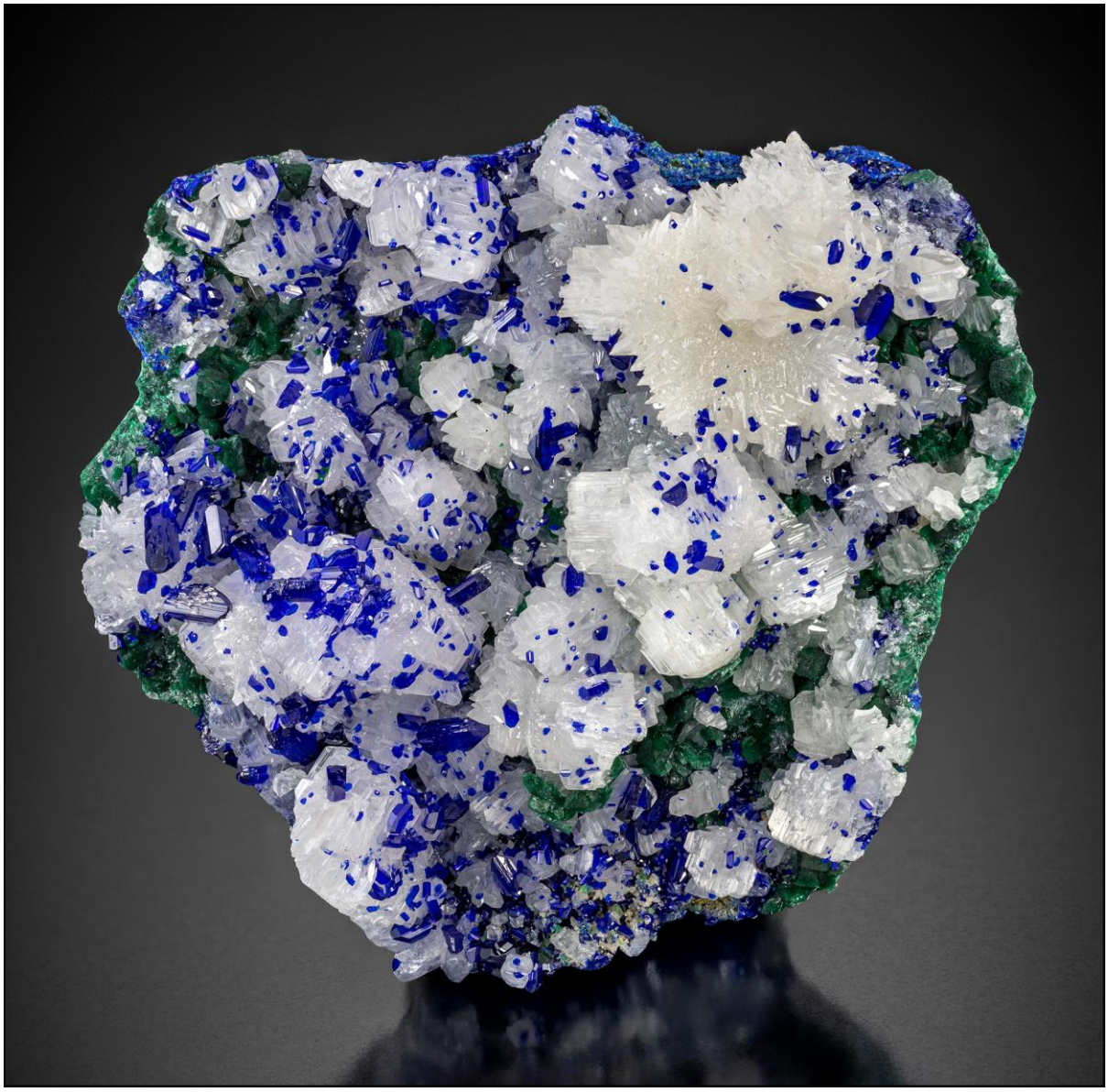
First, a photo by László Kupi shows a dazzling thumbnail of **blue smithsonite with aurichalcite** from what Spirifer says was a small find in a single pocket in 2020-2021; the specimen, being now part of the Joanna Praszkier collection, is not for sale, but similar specimens from the find have been offered by Spirifer recently, and we should be alert for them, as the smithsonite's color rivals, or even exceeds, that of the famous old smithsonite from the Kelly mine in New Mexico.

Smithsonite with aurichalcite, 2.6 cm, from the Yanga Koubenza mine, M'fouati District, Bouenza, Republic of Congo. Spirifer specimen, now in the Joanna Praszkier collection; László Kupi photo.

Small, lustrous, dark green crystals of the rare Cu-Pb arsenate **duftite** are common associations on other minerals from Yanga Koubenza, but sharp duftite crystals to almost 4 mm which sometimes line cavities should probably be accounted as the world's best representatives of the species; witness the Kupi photo of this darkly beautiful miniature:

Duftite, 3.5 cm, from the Yanga Koubenza mine, M'fouati District, Bouenza, Republic of Congo. Spirifer specimen; László Kupi photo.

Next, here is a Kupi photo showing a typical (for Yanga Koubenza) association of **azurite, malachite and "snowflake" cerussite**, all in one lovely piece:



Cerussite on azurite and malachite, 5.5 cm, from the Yanga Koubenza mine, M'fouati District, Bouenza, Republic of Congo. Spirifer specimen; László Kupi photo.

And finally, apple-green **pyromorphite** is also found rarely as fine small specimens at Yanga Koubenza. Here is a sort of feisty-looking, apple-green 2.1-cm thumbnail which costs just $50 on the Spirifer website:

Pyromorphite, 2.1 cm, from the Yanga Koubenza mine, M'fouati District, Bouenza, Republic of Congo. Spirifer specimen; László Kupi photo.

Jack Crowley's *The Crystal Mine* (crystal-mine.com) now has four pages of "new arrivals," and on page 1 he shows two miniatures, 5 cm and 7 cm, of **iridescent pyrite** with quartz crystals from a new find in Indonesia, Jack remarking that "there were a few of these around at Tucson." Permit me therefore just one more foreshadowing of the 2026 Tucson Show report, where I noted some of these distinctive pyrite specimens with a couple of other dealers, but with locality data less full than Jack's. Everyone agrees that the mine in question was formally named the Pyrite mine, although it is actually a gold mine; according to Jack, it is called the Beruang Tengah prospect, Beruang Kanan Orefield, Gunung Mas Regency, Central Kalimantan Province, Indonesia. The pyrite specimens from Indonesia which appeared in Tucson have several associated sulfides but little quartz, whereas Jack's two examples have plenty of quartz but no visible sulfides (other than pyrite). In any case, it is the strong iridescence often displayed by the pyrite crystals which makes this brand-new occurrence of a super-common species "special," and one to watch out for. (Martin Grüll of *Via Mineralia*—viamineralia.com—also has a few of the Indonesian pyrites in his "Latest Update," with locality data agreeing in full with Jack Crowley's).

Pyrite, 5 cm, from the Beraung Tengah prospect, Beraung Kanan Orefield, Gunung Mas Regency, Central Kalimantan Province, Indonesia. The Crystal Mine specimen and photo.

Speaking of *Via Mineralia*, that generous Austrian website is loaded, as usual, with hundreds of miscellaneous pieces from worldwide localities old and new, but (naturally, I would suppose) with special emphasis on occurrences in and around the old Austro-Hungarian Empire. In Martin's "Latest Update" the photographs are so fine and accompanying data so interesting that, well, I will just display four examples for your delectation:

First, here is a small miniature with equant, complex, deep-dark-purple **fluorite** crystals and brown globular calcite from Horni Slavkov (German: Schlaggenwald), Karlovy Vary region, Bohemia, Czech Republic, where mining began in the 13th century and ended finally in 1991; the price of this out-of-the-way little fluorite is 382 euros (now about $400):

Fluorite, 3.2 cm, from Horni Slavkov (Schlaggenwald), Karlovy Vary region, Bohemia, Czech Republic. Via Mineralia specimen and photo.

This 9.9-cm cluster of silken white **dolomite** crystals, offered by *Via Mineralia* for 573 euros (now about $600), is from a magnesite deposit at Sunk, Hohentauern, Styria, Austria—a now defunct locality of which Martin Grüll writes that "At the end of WW2 the Nazis blasted the shafts; they didn't want any resources and mines left for the alliance [and] the last shafts which you were able to enter collapsed several years ago after a rock avalanche." Despite its eventful background, this piece remains in excellent shape, with sharp dolomite crystals to more than 7 cm individually:

Dolomite, 9.9 cm, from Sunk, Hohentauern, Styria, Austria. Via Mineralia specimen and photo.

In their article in the May-June 2016 *Mineralogical Record* on the centuries-old locality called Banská Štiavnica (German: Schemnitz), Banská Bystrica Region, Slovak Republic, Daniel Ozdín and Štěpán Krejsek wrote that **stibnite** is rare from Banská Štiavnica, but was found occasionally as "needle-like crystals in porous quartz from the Grüner vein [which] are the district's best known specimens of stibnite." So perhaps, although he does not say so, Martin Grüll's 5.2-cm stibnite from Banská Štiavnica—already sold—came from that same Grüner vein; it is at any rate a spectacular stibnite which is *not* from Romania or China:

Stibnite, 5.2 cm, from Banská Štiavnica, Banská Bystrica region, Slovak Republic. Via Mineralia specimen and photo.

Mike Keim of *Marin Mineral* (marinmineral.com) posted two updates since the 2025 Tucson Show, including one on March 1 which features two small thumbnails of the beautiful beryl-group species **pezzottaite**, first found in November 2002 as a few crystals in a single pocket at the type locality, namely the Sakavalana pegmatite, Ambatovita, Fianarantsoa Province, Madagascar; since then, a few more pezzottaite specimens have emerged from the same pegmatite, and some have also been found in Afghanistan and Myanmar. Pezzottaite has become a favorite with collectors who fancy rarities and/or gem-potential species, and prices (high to begin with) have soared while supplies have decreased. Mike Keim writes that the two loose pezzottaite crystals on his March 1 update, measuring 1.2 and 1.7 cm and costing $450 and $1500 respectively, are "old stock from the original finds" in the Sakavalana pegmatite—both are loose, hexagonal-tabular, partially gemmy crystals of a deep rose-pink hue, and for their size they are certainly near the top of the quality-line for this species (named for the distinguished Italian curator, mineralogist and field collector Federico Pezzotta).

Pezzottaite, 1.7 cm, from the Sakavalana pegmatite, Ambatovita, Fianarantsoa, Madagascar. Marin Mineral specimen and photo.

Another expert field collector and conscientious dealer who is mentioned frequently in these reports is Ray McDougall, whose *McDougall Minerals* website (mcdougallminerals.com) keeps us up to date on Ray's collecting adventures and his best finds, mostly in southeastern Canada (he lives in Bancroft, Ontario). On his website now, under "New Specimens," Ray is offering about 50 attractive examples, thumbnail to cabinet-size, of the complex amphibole species **fluoro-richterite** (formerly fluororichterite) from a locality he gives as Gibson Road East, Tory Hill, Haliburton County, Ontario—Ray tells us that this collecting site, just west of the hamlet of Tory Hill, is one of the famous calcite vein-dikes "in the part of Ontario that has become known among mineral collectors as the 'Bancroft area'." The fluoro-richterite specimens, dull black to glossy jet-black and all sharply crystallized, range from elongated single crystals, complete all round, approaching 9 cm long, to clusters of smaller crystals, and elegant single-crystal thumbnails; prices range from $50 through $350. Do not look down on amphiboles and pyroxenes! Their names can be strange and their compositions bewildering, but even when non-gemmy they can make lovely mineral specimens which moreover are never expensive.

Fluoro-richterite, 5.5 cm, from Gibson Road East, Tory Hill, Haliburton County, Ontario, Canada. McDougall Minerals specimen and photo.

Fluoro-richterite, 8.5 cm, from Gibson Road East, Tory Hill, Haliburton County, Ontario, Canada. McDougall Minerals specimen and photo.

Rob Lavinsky and his team at *The Arkenstone* are very busy fellows around Tucson Show time: not only did the dealership participate fully, of course, in the show (setting up, among other things, a heartfelt memorial ceremony for the late Jack Halpern), but on January 22—just before

the show—they posted an extensive online update of "Mixed Minerals," and on March 5, March 12 and March 19—just after the show—they posted three more updates, the first two with small selections from the collections of John Stolz and the late Paul Stahl (1957-2025), and another big one, with 13 pages offering 215 specimens (about a third of which were already sold by March 21), called "Rare Mineral Species." In this last-named update there are five examples of one of the rarest of all of these species—**viitaniemiite**, a Na-Ca-Mn-Al fluorophosphate formed from the alteration of primary pegmatite phosphates. This species first became known to the generality of collectors in 1991, when an outrageously large single crystal was found in the Paprok mine in Afghanistan. Rob's new viitaniemiite specimens, four miniatures and a 6-cm cabinet piece found in 2024 in a pocket at Chhappu, Braldu Valley, Shigar District, Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan, show elongated, milky white crystals associated with translucent green, lightly striated prisms of elbaite, the fine example shown here priced at $2,250. Rare secondary phosphate specialists, get your first-rate viitaniemiite while you can.

Viitaniemiite with green elbaite, 4.2 cm, from Chhappu, Braldu Valley, Shigar District, Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan. The Arkenstone specimen and photo.

Two other superb specimens in the "Rare Mineral Species" update on *The Arkenstone* cry out for notice (or at least they do to me). One is a bristling, dark metallic gray, 3-cm cluster of **gratonite** crystals from the Excelsior mine, Cerro de Pasco, Pasco Department, Peru, priced at $4000. The Excelsior mine is the type locality, and still the world's best locality, for this Pb-As sulfosalt, first described from a spectacular crystal-lined pocket in 1938; most of the very best gratonites from Cerro de Pasco came out before 1960, though a few stragglers have appeared on the market since then. Rob's thumbnail should be accounted exceptional—especially if it is one of the pre-1960 old-timers—for its apparent freedom from damage as well as for its fine aesthetics.

Gratonite, 3 cm, from the Excelsior mine, Cerro de Pasco, Pasco Department, Peru. The Arkenstone specimen and photo.

A third member of the "Rare Mineral Species" update is a winning 5.3-cm specimen of **fairfieldite** from the Foote Lithium Company mine at Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina. This flowerlike arrangement of translucent pink crystals atop a matrix came to Rob from the Paul Stahl collection and belonged before that to the late Jack Eaker, once mine chemist and assayer at the Foote mine, who collected it in the 1970s. It is a fine, unusually pretty example of another rare secondary pegmatite phosphate, and (the Foote mine being long since closed to collecting) an American classic—Rob's price for this one is $9,500.

Fairfieldite, 5.3 cm, from the Foote Lithium Company mine, Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina. Ex Jack Eaker, Paul Stahl; The Arkenstone specimen and photo.

The January 22 “Mixed Minerals” update on the Arkenstone website is fun, rewarding and educational to browse as well, as it is loaded with what may be called near-contemporary occurrences from the middle and later 20th century—some of which must already be counted as “extinct” or “exhausted.” Here, for example, is a cluster of intensely, flamboyantly red **realgar** crystals on white matrix from the Jiepaiyu mine, Shimen deposit, Changde, Hunan, China…and Rob is careful to note that the white matrix is “not rock, but rather a thin coating of the very rare white mineral picropharmacolite.” Active as a commercial arsenic mine from the late 1980s through 2006, the mine reverted soon after that date to private ownership, and prospectors in search of specimens have continued to haunt it since then (see Wendell Wilson’s article “The Shimen Mine” in January-February 2007); however, no very recent finds have come to light on the international market. Rob’s typically spectacular realgar specimen from the Jiepaiyu mine—surely the world’s best locality for realgar—bears a price tag of $5000.

Realgar with picropharmacolite, 6.4 cm, from the Jiepaiyu mine, Shimen deposit, Changde, Hunan, China. The Arkenstone specimen and photo.

Specimens showing good euhedral crystals of **rose quartz** have always been highly prized, and a handful of pegmatite prospects in Brazil have produced the champions. Some of these prospects (Baixão, Ilha, Laranjeira) lie near the town of Taquaral, Araçuaí-Itinga District, Minas Gerais, and sometimes the locality given for such rose quartz specimens is simply "Taquaral"—as for five miniature and cabinet-size specimens now available in the "Mixed Minerals" update on *The Arkenstone*. The specimens came from a pocket opened in 2022, and what is most remarkable about them is the rich, deep pink color of the "rose" crystals which gather to form lustrous crests and coatings on white to colorless quartz. Shown here is what appears on the screen to be the most deeply colored of all: a 5.9-cm beauty for which Rob asks $4,500.

Rose Quartz, 5.9 cm, from Taquaral, Araçuaí-Itinga District, Minas Gerais, Brazil. The Arkenstone specimen and photo.

A final item in the "Mixed Minerals" update on *The Arkenstone* is an elegant, exquisite, sexy (I'm running out of adjectives for this concept) 4.3-cm rosette of platy **pyrrhotite** crystals from the famous Yaogangxian mine near Chenzhou, Hunan Province, China. Such fine little pyrrhotites, lustrous, fresh-looking and without associated species, were found just once, "in a small pocket sometime around 2015-2018," Rob writes, and now they are near-contemporary classics indeed. Price for this one: $2,450.

Pyrrhotite, 4.3 cm, from the Yaogangxian mine, Chenzhou, Hunan, China. The Arkenstone specimen and photo.

The Spanish dealership *Luis Burillo Minerales* (luisburillominerales.com) now offers fine specimens from two fairly recent occurrences in Peru—click on "Source" and move down to click on "Peru"…

First, Luis has 12 miniature and small-cabinet-size specimens showing lustrous, translucent, olive-green to beige prismatic crystals of **clinozoisite** to more than 2 cm individually, grouped in jumbles and sprays, from San Cristobal Hill, San Vicente de Cañete, Cañete Province, Lima Department, Peru: very handsome specimens priced from 85 to 240 euros (~ $100 to $275).

Clinozoisite, 3.3 cm, from San Cristobal Hill, San Vicente de Cañete, Cañete Province, Lima Department, Peru. Luis Burillo Minerales specimen and photo.

Also under "Source – Peru," Luis has ten miniature to full cabinet-size specimens of **axinite-(Mn)** (formerly manganaxinite) from a 2015 find somewhere in the Canta District, Canta

Province, Lima Department, Peru: translucent, clove-brown, typically ax-blade-shaped crystals in lustrous groups without associated species, for prices between 145 euros and 570 euros (~ $170 to $600). Notable axinite-group specimens—mostly axinite-(Mn), commonly with epidote and andradite—have emerged from various vague localities in Peru for a couple of decades now, but those now on the Luis Burillo website are the best I can recall having seen so far.

Axinite-(Mn), 8.5 cm, from the Canta District, Canta Province, Lima Department, Peru. Luis Burillo Minerales specimen and photo.

Faithful readers of these online reports (if any such there be) have noted by now that I like to conclude each report with a single high-end bit of eye-candy, an unapologetically pricey but

wondrous thing, just to intervene jovially in your day. This time it is Mustafa Ghulam's *Fine Art Minerals* website (fineartminerals.com) which provides the subject: an 11.5-cm specimen of **rhodochrosite** from a relatively little-known locality for the species called the Moanda (or Mouanda) mine, Moanda, Haut-Ogoué, Gabon. To quote from *Moore's Compendium of Mineral Discoveries 1960-2015*, "The huge stratiform manganese ore deposit at Moanda was discovered during the 1930s; full-scale mining began in 1951 and continues today"…although it was only during the 1970s that fabulous, wholly distinctive rhodochrosites like this one came onto the market. The crystals are small but intense fiery red, and here they cover the matrix completely, and the whole is brilliantly fresh-looking, without any apparent damage. You won't be surprised to learn that Mustafa has decreed P.O.R. ("Price On Request") for this superstar.

Rhodochrosite, 11.5-cm, from the Moanda mine, Moanda, Haut-Ogoué, Gabon. Fine Art Minerals specimen and photo.

Once again, Happy Spring to all!

Tom Moore

